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PARMELEE, MAURICE. *Poverty and Social Progress*. Pp. xv, 477. Price, \$1.75. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1916.

This new book is indeed welcome. It is the most satisfactory work attempting to deal with the entire field of poverty, dependency, and philanthropy which has appeared in recent years. The author has aimed to make the book suitable for guidance in the general problems of citizenship and for "use as a textbook for college and university courses on charities, poverty, pauperism, dependency, social pathology, etc."

Several features differentiate this work from previous works dealing with the same field or closely allied fields. One of these is the fuller consideration of the newer facts of biology and psychology in the treatment of poverty causation. While the development of knowledge in these fields is not complete enough to fix definite and standardized relationships yet the connection between them and poverty is discussed in a suggestive way. Emphasis is given to the social and economic causes of poverty. Poverty is shown to be a social abnormality, an economic defect which has some of its deepest roots in the nature of the social organization. The whole subject of causation is dealt with from the viewpoint of its fundamental social and economic elements. The social and economic measures for the prevention of poverty are also emphasized. Chapters are given over to the discussion of the problem of distribution, dealing with such topics as the raising of wages, the regulation of the labor supply, the re-distribution of income from the ownership of property, and the productiveness of society. The factors of causation and the methods of prevention are the two primary points of attack in the solution of the problem of poverty. The author's concept of social progress (which gives life and spirit to a working program dealing with poverty) is "the progress of society towards a democratic organization inspired by a humanitarian ideal."

There are several ways in which the excellence of the book might have been improved. The basis of selecting the bibliography is not clearly defined. Much good material regarding the facts and conditions of poverty is left out and other material more remotely relating to the subject of poverty is inserted. In its present form the bibliography is not classified according to the nature of the material and as a result it is not so largely usable or suggestive. There is some doubt about the proportion given to some phases of the subject. Comparatively little space is devoted to the present methods of dealing with poverty and the dependent classes. It is a question whether these should not have been more fully discussed since they are the usual avenue of approach whereby interest is developed in the more fundamental phases of causes and prevention. The book is not primarily adapted for beginners in the field requiring too much background in the social sciences. At times the terminology could have been simplified or modified to advantage. The English terms regarding feeble-mindedness are misleading for they differ in meaning somewhat from the terms in American usage.

Such an able and scholarly treatment of the subject of poverty in its relation to the life and ideals of our time is bound to be a guide and stimulus to the students and workers along social and philanthropic lines. It suggests new and

undeveloped phases of study and research which must be explored if the problem of poverty is to be met and scientifically solved.

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WORK, MONROE (Ed.). *Negro Year Book, 1916-17*. Price, 35 cents. Tuskegee Institute: The Negro Year Book Publishing Company, 1916.

### INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS

LADD, WILLIAM. *An Essay on a Congress of Nations for the Adjustment of International Disputes without Resort to Arms*. (Reprinted from the original edition of 1840 with an introduction by James Brown Scott.) Pp. 1, 162. Price, \$1.00. New York: Oxford University Press, 1916.

MACH, E. R. O. VON (Ed.). *Official Diplomatic Documents relating to the Outbreak of the European War*. Price, \$6.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1916.

During the last two years there has been issued a series of publications in which the official documents relating to the Great War have been reprinted. The American Association for International Conciliation first published in separate reprint form the most important of these documents. Then came the excellent work of Professor E. C. Stowell on *The Diplomacy of the War of 1914*, in the first volume of which many of these documents were printed. In the present work we have the most complete compilation heretofore attempted. This volume is divided into three parts. The first contains the despatches sent and received at the various foreign offices of the countries involved in the war. In Part II there is reprinted the Austro-Hungarian Red Book, the French Yellow Book, the German White Book and the British Blue Book. Part III contains in systematic arrangement a series of documents which will be particularly useful to the student of international relations and which are not accessible to the average reader, such as, for instance, the so-called "Brussels' Documents," found at the time of the capture of that city, and interpreted by the German government to indicate a secret understanding between Belgium and Great Britain with reference to the protection of Belgian territory.

In a voluminous appendix the author has arranged photographic reproductions of a large number of official documents, of which the most important are the notes exchanged between the diplomatic representatives of the teutonic powers and their respective foreign offices.

In his preface the author mentions the fact that he has contented himself with "the hard and slow work of collating the despatches and bringing order out of chaos." He intimates that at some future time he will undertake the discussion of their significance, but that the present work is intended exclusively as a source book for students.

L. S. R.